

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW BEARS FROM THE ALASKA PENINSULA.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.

In June, 1901 Mr. James H. Kidder of Boston, and his friend Mr. Robert P. Blake, spent several weeks hunting bears at Chinitna Bay, a little south of Mt. Iliamna, on the west shore of Cook Inlet. Here they killed one black bear and ten large brown bears, the skulls and skins of which they kindly sent me for study. One of the brown bears was a cub of the preceding year; the others were of various ages from two years old to adult. Before receiving the data I examined the skulls and arranged them in two series, according to the size of the teeth, placing four which I took to be males in one series, and five which I supposed to be females in the other. When the data came I was surprised to learn that there was only one female (besides the cub) in the lot, and that of the eight males, four had large teeth and four small teeth. The skins did not show any marked differences. After studying the skulls and teeth at repeated intervals for two months, and going over the specimens carefully with Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., Mr. F. A. Lucas, and Mr. Wilfred H. Osgood, I am unable to account for the differences on any theory other than that two distinct species of large brown bears inhabit the same area on the Alaska Peninsula. In view of the facts I am reluctantly forced to describe the smaller of the two as a distinct species. In doing

this I take pleasure in naming it in honor of Mr. Kidder, who has brought back the first series of skins and skulls, accompanied by reliable data, of the Alaska brown bears, and who has generously presented the type specimen to the Biological Survey Collection of the U. S. National Museum.

In the same connection I have examined the large Alaska Peninsula bear, of which the Biological Survey Collection now contains a fine series of skulls. Briefly, this bear proves to differ so markedly from both the Kadiak and Yakutat bears that I am obliged to name it also, and have recognized it as a subspecies of *Ursus dalli*, with which its range is probably continuous.

***Ursus dalli gyas* subsp. nov.**

Type from Pavlof Bay, Alaska Peninsula. No. 91669 ♂ ad. U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. Collected in 1897 by Willie Pavlof. Original No. 1052 X.

Characters.—Similar to *Ursus dalli* but very much larger; about the size of *Ursus middendorffi* from Kadiak Island.

Skull similar in general to that of *dalli* but much larger, heavier and more massive; postpalatal region much longer; frontals and vault of cranium higher and less flattened; rostrum longer and much more elevated; anterior nares very much larger, particularly higher; teeth larger.

From *Ursus middendorffi* of Kadiak Island, with which I originally confounded the big Alaska Peninsula Bear, it may be distinguished at once by the much smaller anterior nares. The nares are much larger than in *dalli* but much smaller and less flaring than in *middendorffi*. It differs from *middendorffi* further in having the frontal region less elevated, the median sulcus much more strongly marked; postpalatal region longer; paroccipital processes larger, more outspreading, and situated more posteriorly; heel of last upper molar cut off obliquely on outer side (instead of bluntly rounded).

Measurements.—Type skull: basal length 390; zygomatic breadth 285; palatal length 212; postpalatal length 177; occipito-sphenoid length 112.

***Ursus kidderi* sp. nov.**

Type from Chinitna Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska. No. 116,562 ♂ yg. ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. Collected June 9, 1901 by James H. Kidder.

Characters.—Size large, equal to or slightly larger than *Ursus horri-*

bitis alascensis, but decidedly smaller than *Ursus middendorffi* and *U. dalli gyas*; claws rather short and blue-black, as in *Ursus dalli gyas*.

Color.—June specimens (in left over winter pelage): General color yellowish brown, darkest on belly and legs—the legs much darker than body. In spring and early summer the color is much the same as in *Ursus dalli gyas*.

Cranial and dental characters.—Skull large and massive; equal to or slightly larger than *Ursus horribilis alascensis* but much smaller than *U. dalli gyas* (the male smaller than female of *gyas*); lachrymal large and high, reaching up to maxillary protuberance on inner side of orbit. Teeth similar in general to those of *dalli* but decidedly smaller; lower sectorial nearly rectangular, the outer side only slightly constricted between cusps; heel of last upper molar with only 2 cusps [instead of 3] on inner side.

Measurements.—Type specimen, ♂ yg. ad: basal length of skull 301; occipito-sphenoid length 82; length of upper molariform series 74; of lower molariform series 70; breadth across upper incisors 44; pm^4 15.5 x 13; pm^7 12 x 8; m^1 23 x 17; m^2 34.5 x 18.5; m^7 25 x 11; m^8 26 x 15; m^9 20 x 14.5.